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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
DEC 22 1999

Assignee's Docket No.: 7204)
Group Art Unit: 2764)
Serial No.: 09/020,699)
Examiner: Chinor M. Lee)
Filing Date: February 9, 1998)
Title: Method and Apparatus for)
Determining the Validity)
of a Data Processing)
Transaction)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, DC, 20231, AND WILL BE DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, FIRST CLASS, PREPAID, ON

DEC 21 1999
GREGORY A. WELTE

AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20232

Sir:

Please amend the following claim to read as indicated:

1. (Amended twice) A method of determining validity of a transaction carried out by a user at a data processing system, the method including the steps of:

- receiving a user identification card and a first entry of data from the user;
- checking the first entry of data against a first stored field of security data;
- issuing a message to the user which requests a subset entry, consisting of less than all characters of a second stored field of security data, and receiving [a second]

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the subset entry [of data] from the user;

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- checking the [second] subset entry [of data] against